

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED

SEP 02 2009

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Plymouth Congregational Church

Other name/site number 045-3010-0023

2. Location

Street & number 925 Vermont Street

☐ not for publication

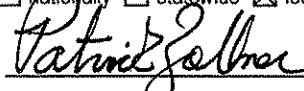
City or town Lawrence

☐ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Douglas Code 045 Zip code 66044

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)



7/16/09

Patrick Zollner, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional
Comments.)

Signature of commenting official / Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- ☐ entered in the National Register. _____
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National
Register _____
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register _____
- ☐ removed from the National
Register _____
- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Plymouth Congregational Church
Name of Property

Douglas County, KS
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Resources of Lawrence, KS MPS

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter Categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic Revival; Romanesque

Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: STONE: Limestone

Walls: BRICK

Roof: ASPHALT

Other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Plymouth Congregational Church

Name of Property

Douglas County, KS

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1870-1936

Significant Dates

1870, 1916, 1922, 1936

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Haskell, John G. (architect); McKim & Smith (contractor)

Melville & Lescher (contractors)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Spencer Research Library, University of KS

Plymouth Congregational Church
Name of Property

Douglas County, KS
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	5	3	0	6	1	7	0	4	3	1	5	2	4	0
Zone	Easting					Northing									
2															

3															
Zone	Easting					Northing									
4															

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Betty Alderson, member; KSHS staff edits

Organization Plymouth Congregational Church Date August 2008

Street & number 1920 Maine Street Telephone 785-843-5245

City or town Lawrence State KS Zip code 66046

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name Plymouth Congregational Church (Attn: Barbara Holland)

Street & number 925 Vermont Street Telephone 785-843-3220

City or town Lawrence State KS Zip code 66044

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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Plymouth Congregational Church
Lawrence, Douglas County, KS

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Plymouth Congregational Church, used continuously as a religious facility since 1870, is located at 925 Vermont Street in downtown Lawrence, Kansas (population 80,000). The church sits one block west of Lawrence's main downtown thoroughfare, Massachusetts Street, and less than one mile south of the Kansas River. The eclectic three-story building with Gothic and Romanesque Revival characteristics faces east and is situated on Vermont Street lots 75, 77, 79, 81, 83. This land describes the boundaries of the current site. The building was designed by John G. Haskell in 1868 and constructed in 1870. There are two later additions that connect to the original structure via corridors. The north addition was added in 1957 and renovated in 2001. A south addition was first added in 1916, substantially rebuilt after a fire in 1955, demolished in 2000, and replaced with another addition in 2001.

Exterior

The 1870 brick building rests on a limestone foundation that is topped by a projecting smooth-cut limestone belt course approximately four feet above grade. The front-facing gable roof has a dual pitch and is covered with asphalt composition shingles. A projecting brick cornice accentuates the roofline throughout the original building. The façade features four evenly spaced brick pilasters with spires extending roughly 10 feet above the roofline. (The two south spires were toppled during a storm on March 12, 2006, and have been repaired.) The roof pitch is mimicked in the slightly projecting gabled entrance located at the center of the façade, which contains a recessed arch entry complete with double doors and a transom. A large central circular window also adorns the front elevation. There are four side gables – two on the north elevation and two on the south elevation. Two of the side gables (or wing towers) are projecting and at one time were each adorned with a wooden bell tower, but these towers were removed in 1936 after being damaged by strong winds. The two side gables at the rear of the building feature brick pilasters with spires extending above the roofline and a single round window above the entrance. There are five tall double-hung wood windows along each side elevation. These are the original stained glass windows. All the original door and window openings contain a slightly projecting round limestone hoodmold and lintel. Two tall stained glass windows on the rear (west) elevation were removed and the openings filled in with brick during a 1922 renovation to install a new organ and reconfigure this area.

The brick-faced north addition, known as the North Church, was designed by architect John Shaver of Salina, Kansas, and built by local contractor PD Olmstead Construction Company in 1957. It adjoins the original structure on the first story in two locations: the northeast projecting bay and the northwest bay. This design creates an enclosed courtyard leaving the north façade of the original church intact and exposed. The two-story North Church features a side gable roof and a south-facing front entrance that provides access to the offices and classrooms. An accessibility ramp was added to this addition along the front elevation in 1982-83. The addition was renovated

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in 2000 and 2001 as part of the new South Church construction project. Changes to the North Church addition included replacing the east flat roof with a gabled roof, modernizing the connector vestibule, replacing windows, and remodeling the first floor of the interior.

Lawrence architectural firm GLPM designed the south addition, known as the South Church, which was completed in 2000 and dedicated in 2001. The addition is connected to the original building by a modern arched corridor with east facing double glass doors with sidelights. This addition has brick and cast concrete panels, a gable roof with composition shingles, brick pilasters without spires, and double-hung windows on both floors. The windows on the first level on the front of the building have the arched tops to mimic those on the original church. There is an accessibility ramp across the front of the South Church leading to the arched corridor entrance where the addition connects to the original structure. This addition connects to the original building at the same spot, the original south stair tower, where the 1916 Parish House connected. The rear and north sides of the South Church addition are stepped back from the original structure leaving the south elevation of the original church intact and exposed. This area is used as a courtyard and a high wrought-iron fence with a gate stretches across the rear securing this space. This building contains classrooms and offices for the Head Start program, church offices, Sunday School classrooms, and a multi-purpose memorial chapel. Some elements from the original south structure were incorporated in the chapel.

Interior

One enters the original church through the main double doors on the east elevation. Passing through these doors, one enters a central vestibule flanked by two parlors (25'x20' each). The vestibule leads to a set of original double doors that open into the rear of the sanctuary (these doors are currently non-operable). During a 1992 renovation, the parlors were opened up to create one large vestibule and two additional doorways into the sanctuary were created.

The sanctuary consists of three sections of west-facing pews accessed by two central aisles, a balcony extending from the east wall with pew seating, a slightly raised platform for the pulpit, and a second story choir loft encasing a large organ along the west wall. The wood pews are original and still contain the metal number plates that indicated where members sat according to tithing amounts. The sanctuary walls are plastered and have wood wainscot. The ceiling is also plaster with raised designs. The main sanctuary light fixtures are not original, but occupy the original space.

The choir loft and organ area have undergone numerous changes since 1870. Originally, much of the wall was exposed with a tall organ structure centrally located between two stained glass windows on the west wall. Those windows were removed and the openings filled in with brick during a 1922 renovation in which a much larger organ was installed. There are stories that the stained glass from these windows was saved to be used for repairs of remaining stained glass windows, if needed. The new organ pipes stretched across the entire wall and to the ceiling. The current organ structure dates to 1970 and also spans much of the west wall. Beneath the loft is an

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enclosed space that was originally used as the pastor's study and library. The space currently houses mechanical systems for the organ and serves as a rear passage to the North Church. The door opening to the exterior of the original structure provides a connection to the hallway into the north addition. Two round arch single doors on each side of the pulpit lead to this space.

The balcony loft at the east end of the sanctuary is situated above the entry vestibule and is accessed by stairwells located in the building's original wing towers. The balcony extends the full width of the church and joins the east wall where the second story windows and large circular window are situated. Following a fire in 1955, a 60'x20' lecture room, which was original to the building, was removed from the gallery and the space was opened up for seating. The gallery can seat 250 people.

The 1870 structure includes a basement that is partially above grade. The basement is divided into three large spaces and is used for education purposes, gatherings, and mechanical system storage.

Access from the original church to the 1957 north addition is through a hallway connector at ground level. There is no basement beneath this addition, but there are a series of tunnels to house mechanical systems. The first floor was updated during the 2001 renovation and now includes administrative offices, a large social room, kitchen, and a library. The second floor space features offices, classrooms, and multi-purpose meeting rooms. There is an enclosed courtyard area used as an outdoor play area for the Head Start program. The courtyard is accessed through a door from the hallway. The north elevation of the original structure is visible from this courtyard.

Access from the original church to the 2001 south addition is through a hallway connector at both ground and basement levels. This two-story building with a full basement includes classrooms, Head Start program offices, a kitchen, and a small memorial chapel used for a variety of purposes including choir practice. There is a double glass door leading from the entry hallway into a landscaped courtyard area.

The building and its additions are well maintained. The additions, which are attached to the historic church via hallway connectors, have not compromised the integrity of the original structure. Other than the connections at the stair towers the exterior of the original structure has remained relatively unchanged. The 1870 structure poses a unique challenge in that the structural brick units are of soft brick and require specialized care. A professional structural engineer is currently assessing the original building after severe winds damaged the two south spires on the front elevation. The repair to the spires was completed in 2007.

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Plymouth Congregational Church
Lawrence, Douglas County, KS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Plymouth Congregational Church (1870) is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance as an eclectic Victorian-era church building with Gothic and Romanesque Revival characteristics. This property also falls under Criterion Consideration A because it is owned by a religious organization and is used for religious purposes. Because the property derives its primary significance from its architecture, it meets Criterion Consideration A.

The building's period of significance begins with the construction of the church in 1870 and extends to 1936 when changes were made to the towers after being damaged by strong winds. The building was added to the Register of Historic Kansas Places in August of 2006. Although the building is flanked by two twentieth-century additions, it has retained much of its historic architectural integrity. This building was designed by prominent Kansas architect John G. Haskell; this project provided him his first opportunity to design a church.¹ Church services have occurred in this building since 1870.

Haskell's design of the building was likely influenced by an 1840 publication by New England Congregational churches to be used as a plan book for the construction of church buildings and by his knowledge of architectural styles in New England and Europe. This church building was one of the first of the large church buildings built in the new state called Kansas. Soon after its construction, the First Methodist Church across the street at 10th and Vermont, the Trinity Episcopal Church on the southwest corner at 10th and Vermont, and the Old English Lutheran Church (c. 1870), also designed by John G. Haskell, on the northeast corner at 11th and New Hampshire Street (two blocks to the east) were built. There were no other large buildings of similar construction at the time Plymouth was built. Native materials were used as much as possible. Haskell went on to design many other buildings in this new territory, and later the state, including churches, courthouses, a portion of the State Capitol building, and several buildings at the University of Kansas. The additions to the north and south of the original church building have been done with a minimum of change to the structure.

Church History

The organization of the Plymouth Congregational Church dates back to Lawrence's earliest pre-Civil War days. The first church service was held on October 22, 1854, in a mud brick boarding house, just weeks after the first groups of New England settlers arrived. During these beginning years, services were held irregularly at various public buildings until a stone church structure was sufficiently complete in 1857. The stone church was officially completed in 1862. This first

¹ John M. Peterson, *John G. Haskell: Pioneer Kansas Architect* (Lawrence, KS: Douglas County Historical Society, 1984), 47.

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Plymouth Congregational Church
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church building was located at Pinckney (now 6th Street) and Louisiana. However, in November 1864, a church committee formed to investigate suitable lots for a new building closer to the downtown business district. Three years later on November 29, 1867, the newly elected trustees of the Society of the Plymouth Congregational Church were directed to prepare a plan for the new church "costing no more than \$15,000" and a program for raising the money.² They approached John G. Haskell, a young Lawrence architect, to do this. Haskell, whose family was active in the church and whose father had attended that first service in October 1854, accepted the offer. This project was Haskell's first opportunity to design a church. The stone church was sold in 1869 to help finance the new church.

The Reverend Richard Cordley, who led the church from 1857 to 1875 and again from 1884 to 1904, was a New England abolitionist and survivor of William Quantrill's raid of Lawrence in August of 1863. With many church members still reeling from the devastation of Quantrill's raid, some expressed the desire for a simple building of adequate size that would allow for future growth.³ Haskell suggested that the addition of "angles, projections, and towers" could make the building much more attractive "without greatly adding to the cost," while insisting that "beauty costs no more than ugliness."⁴ A canvas of the membership was made and \$11,000 was pledged toward their \$15,000.00 goal. In-kind pledges were made, some by families trying to rebuild their homes and businesses that were destroyed or damaged in the raid. The church's building committee approved Haskell's plans in February 1868. They then chose lots 77, 79, 81 & 83 in the 900 block of Vermont Street upon which to build the church. The town seemed to be growing south in the direction of the new site. In addition, the previous building was located in an area that required parishioners to cross a deep ravine to get to the church, which proved difficult during rainy weather.

Work began at the site in late 1868. There is no record of who supervised the construction, but it is believed that Reverend Cordley and the building committee followed the construction and consulted with Haskell when questions arose. The committee hired McKim and Smith to do the stone and brick work, and Melville and Lescher to do the carpentry.

As the construction progressed, the women expressed the desire for more refined finishes, nicer furnishings, colored glass windows, and a pipe organ. The women's and young people's organizations raised money for these extras. The stained glass windows came from England, no records can be found indicating who designed the windows or what they cost. When they arrived one of the two small round windows at the front of the sanctuary was broken, it was replaced by one made in the United States in order to have it installed before the dedication in 1870. In 1953 a

² Peterson, 47.

³ The stone church was not harmed during the raid. However, the church records were destroyed when the raiders burned Dr. Richard Cordley's residence where the documents were housed.

⁴ Peterson, 48.

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member of the church, Myra Keeler, wrote a paper that gives an extensive description of the windows. The ten stained glass tall windows in the sanctuary are all alike except for the round medallions at the top. These tell Biblical stories with those on the south side referring to New Testament stories and those on the north side Old Testament stories. In 1983, as part of some improvements made to the building, a gift was received by the church to install protective plexiglas coverings with operable lower sections over the tall stained glass windows. The rose window on the east side is stained glass and at one time was damaged and repaired. The lecture room that was in what is now the upper part of the balcony had the ceiling lowered and the window was covered; however, when the balcony area was expanded in the 1955 renovation the window was uncovered so that it could be seen from the inside of the church. William A. Johnson of Westfield, Massachusetts, built the pipe organ, which was enclosed in a walnut case specially designed to fit the building and match the woodwork. The project costs swelled far higher than the originally requested \$15,000. The building and site cost about \$35,000 and the furnishings and organ pushed the total to \$43,000. After donations and fundraisers, outstanding bills totaled \$7,500.⁵

The building was dedicated on Sunday May 20, 1870, with some 1,500 persons in attendance who donated \$7,000 toward the construction project. Local news accounts suggest that other churches in town cancelled their services that day so that all could attend this event. It was an important day for Lawrence for this building represented not only a church but also a community resource where the causes for freedom, individual justice, and social responsibility were discussed and pursued.

In 1916, the church built a three-story Parish House adjoining the historic church at the south-projecting bay. Designed by architectural firm Shepard, Tanar, and Wiser, the Parish House featured a Collegiate Gothic style. A large-scale repair and expansion project was proposed in 1954 and a vote was taken in July 1955 on a \$55,000 plan. However, a major fire at the church on September 9, 1955, destroyed most of the interior of the Parish House and halted the repair and expansion plans. The 1870 structure received only smoke and water damage. Two proposals were then presented after the fire: one called for rebuilding the Parish House, and the other outlined rebuilding two stories of the Parish House with an addition to the west and constructing yet another addition to the *north* side of the 1870 building. It was decided to accept the latter proposal. The church trustees purchased lot 75 to the north of the 1870 structure to make room for the expansion. The Parish House rebuilding, the sanctuary cleanup, and some repairs to the basement and balcony took place during 1955 and 1956. The expansion of the Parish House provided additional Sunday School classrooms, while the new north addition allowed for more office space, additional classrooms, a new kitchen, and a social room. The north addition was dedicated in 1958. This new addition was connected to the original structure at both the east and west sides of the church. Across the back, west side, a hallway was constructed from the new structure to the existing exit at the northwest corner of the building, two restrooms and a storage room were included in this hallway, the new exit went to the west onto the alleyway. The addition of the hallway connector

⁵ Peterson, 49.

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from the new north church, the original structure and the addition to the west end of the Parish House gave the building a continuous wall along the alley. The area now enclosed by the connections to the original building from the north church structure gave an open area which became used by the Head Start program for a playground and also left the north side of the original structure visible.

During a renovation in 2000 and 2001, the 1916 Parish House was demolished, a new addition was constructed in its place, and the first floor rooms of the North Church were rearranged and renovated. Before the Parish House was demolished, the church traded a lot at the northwest corner of 10th and Vermont Streets for an equivalent piece of ground that was part of the city-owned parking lot separating the two properties, thus gaining land for the replacement building. Lawrence architectural firm GLPM designed the 2001 addition.

Church Social History

Since its pre-Civil War founding, the Plymouth Congregational Church membership has discussed issues and pursued causes relating to individual justice, independence, and social responsibility. Early church leader Reverend Richard Cordley arrived in Lawrence in 1856 from New England and immediately became involved in free-state causes. He witnessed Quantrill's raid of Lawrence and provided his first-person account of the territory's early history in his 1895 publication *A History of Lawrence*. Several early church members, also with ties to New England, supported the free-state movement. These early members laid the foundation for the social and political engagement of future generations.

In 1924, Plymouth Congregational Church hosted a series of lectures entitled "Religion as Seen by Men of Science."⁶ The public was invited to these Sunday morning meetings, which included eight topics for debate. A University of Kansas faculty member led the first discussion entitled "What Evolution Means to a Scientist". Interestingly, this series of meetings occurred one year prior to the well-known "Scopes Monkey Trial" during which a high school biology teacher, John Scopes, challenged the constitutionality of Tennessee's anti-evolution statute.

During the 1940s, church member Betty Alderson recalls discussing the current issues of the day at the Sunday Fireside Forums. Both students and adults participated in these discussions, which were named after President Franklin Roosevelt's evening radio talks called Fireside Chats.

Plymouth Congregational Church hosted numerous meetings and discussions concerning Civil Rights and racial equality during the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. Although the church body did not take an official position concerning segregation and race-related issues, many members were

⁶ Plymouth Congregational Church, "In the Love of Truth, and In the Spirit of Jesus – Plymouth Congregational Church, Lawrence, Kansas – 1854-2004" Printed for the Sesquicentennial Celebration, 2004.

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actively involved in community affairs. Reverend C. Fosberg Hughes, who served the church from 1942-1948, and parishioners Cal and Rachel VanderWerf were leaders of the Lawrence League for the Practice of Democracy (LLPD), an interracial group of ministers and college professors that promoted racial equality and Christian humanism. LLPD functions were often held in the basement of Plymouth Congregational Church.⁷

The church was a leader in the push for early childhood education in the 1960s. In 1964, the Federal Government asked a panel of child development experts to draw up a program to help communities meet the needs of disadvantaged preschool children. The panel report became the blueprint for Project Head Start. Today, the program is locally administered by community-based non-profit organizations and school systems.⁸ Plymouth Congregational Church currently operates Head Start Community Children's Center out of the South Church.

More recently, on April 18, 2004, members declared the church "to be an Open and Affirming Church, welcoming all persons, regardless of gender, race, physical or mental ability, economic status, marital status, age or sexual orientation. We affirm that persons who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered share with all others the worth that comes from being unique individuals created by God. Therefore, this congregation joyfully and unequivocally welcomes all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, and blessings of participation in our community of faith."⁹

Other issues that the membership has been involved in include fair housing in Lawrence and pre-school education. The church frequently hosts non-profit and civic group meetings in part because of the building's central downtown location.

John Gideon Haskell, architect

John G. Haskell (1832-1907) came to Kansas in 1857 at the age of 25 and soon rose to prominence as one of the state's leading architects. He designed the Kansas statehouse and many other early Kansas buildings, including courthouses, churches, schools, asylums, opera houses, and commercial buildings. In 1891, the newly organized State Board of Public Works appointed Haskell to be the first official "state architect."¹⁰

Haskell's father Franklin arrived in the Kansas Territory in 1854 with the second party of New Englanders sent by the New England Emigrant Aid Society to help this new territory enter the

⁷ Kristine M. McCusker, "Interracial Communities and Civil Rights Activism in Lawrence, Kansas, 1945-1948," *Historian* (Summer 1999). Accessed online at www.highbeam.com/library/docFree.asp?DOCID=1G1:56909070.

⁸ Office of Head Start *Homepage*. Administration for Children & Families. Department of Health and Human Services. www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/about/history.htm

⁹ Plymouth Congregational Church website. Accessible at www.nvo.com/plymouth. (24 July 2006).

¹⁰ Peterson, 198.

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United States as a free state. According to author John Peterson, John Haskell was born February 5, 1832, in Milton, Vermont, and left home at the age of 11 to live with the family of a farmer and to work for him. At age 14 he apprenticed with carpenter Edmund Jones learning valuable skills and earning money to pay for his education at Wesleyan Academy in Wilbraham, Massachusetts. He then entered Brown University to gain further training in mathematics and engineering, although he never received a degree. In 1855 he joined an architectural firm in Boston and was so well thought of that he soon was a partner in the firm. However, in 1857 his ailing father asked that John join the family in Kansas, where some five months later his father died.

Although John is credited with designing several pre-1860 buildings, he did not open an office or advertise as an architect until 1859 or 1860. He spent four years serving in the Union Army during the Civil War. Haskell partnered with Louis M. H. Wood in 1875 and they moved their office to Topeka in 1878 or 1879. He incorporated elements of many architectural styles into his design of buildings, including Gothic Revival, Italian Renaissance, and Richardsonian Romanesque. As LuRaye Crandall noted in an unpublished paper about Plymouth Congregational Church, Haskell's design "created an admirable example of Gothic Revival architecture as well as a monument to the faith and determination of the early congregation."¹¹

Other Lawrence buildings designed by Haskell include the powerhouse at the University of Kansas, KU's Bailey Hall (NRHP), the English Lutheran Church (NRHP), the Ludington House (NRHP), and the Douglas County Courthouse (NRHP). John and his wife Mary continued to live in Lawrence where they remained active leaders within the Plymouth Congregational Church. He died in 1907.¹²

Haskell's design of the church has endured and served the needs of the congregation since 1870. The vision of this pioneer architect, his first church design, and the vision of the people of the church are intertwined with the history of Lawrence, Kansas from 1854, to the current time. Haskell's ability to design for the "needs, tastes, and resources" of the people continues to guide church members, providing them a space to unite for the worship of God and the service of all each Sunday morning.

¹¹ LuRaye Crandall, *The Architectural Sources of Plymouth Congregational Church, Lawrence, Kansas* (unpublished manuscript, Spencer Research Library, "Plymouth Congregational Church" File, 1968).

¹² Peterson, 2-5, 10.

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Lawrence, Douglas County, KS

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Plymouth Congregational Church is located on Vermont Street Lots 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, and UO1417 & 1418-01A combined. (The first four lots that were purchased were 77, 79, 81, and 83 in the 900 Block of Vermont Street. In 1955, lot 75 was purchased for the expansion to the north. In the new South Church construction completed in 2000, the church entered into an agreement with the City to trade land on the corner of 10th and Vermont, which they owned for an equal amount of land at the north end of the adjacent city parking lot reconstructed the parking lot for the city.)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the parcels historically and currently associated with Plymouth Congregational Church. The lots for the additions are included in these boundaries because National Register policy requires that a historic building with its additions must make up the nominated property.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The following information is consistent for all photographs:

Plymouth Congregational Church
Douglas County, KS
Photographer: Sarah J. Martin
Digital photographs on file at the Kansas State Historical Society

- Photo #1: East (front) elevation, view from the east (date of photo: 5-3-2009)
- Photo #2: East (front) elevation, view from southeast (date of photo: 5-3-2009)
- Photo #3: East (front) elevation, showing entire south addition, view from the southeast (date of photo: 5-3-2009)
- Photo #4: East (front) elevation, close-up of rose window and spires, view from the east (date of photo: 5-3-2009)
- Photo #5: East (front) elevation, view of connector between main church and south addition, view from east (date of photo: 6-30-2006)
- Photo #6: South (side) elevation of main church showing courtyard and connector to south addition, view from west (date of photo: 6-30-2006)
- Photo #7: West (rear) elevation of north addition (foreground) and main church, view from north (date of photo: 6-30-2006)
- Photo #8: East (front) elevation, historic double doors, view from east (date of photo: 6-30-2006)
- Photo #9: Interior, sanctuary, view from east balcony (date of photo: 6-30-2006)

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Photo #10: Interior, sanctuary, view from west (date of photo: 6-30-2006)

Photo #11: Interior, sanctuary pews, view from northeast (date of photo: 6-30-2006)

Photo #12: Interior, stairwell leading up to balcony, view from the east (date of photo: 6-30-2006)

Plymouth Congregation
 Church
 Lawrence, Douglas Co.
 Kansas
 15: 306180 E
 4315260 N

57°30"
 T. 12 S.
 T. 13 S.

4314

2.5 MI TO U.S. 40
 0.5 MI TO U.S. 59

6961 IV NE
 (LAWRENCE WEST)

